

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20

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SUBJ: PHILIPPINE LABOR DAY

BEGIN SUMMARY: MAIN LABOR DAY EVENT HERE WAS LABOR
POLICY ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT MARCOS TO SEVERAL HUNDRED
UNIONISTS PLUS EMPLOYER AND GOVERNMENT REPS ASSEMBLED AT
PALACE (MALACANANG) CONFERENCEHALL. MARCOS DID NOT,
AS EXPECTED, SIGN A NEWLY DRAFTED COMPREHENSIVE LABOR
CODE INTO PRES. DECREE BUT PROMISED TO PROMULGATE SUITABLE
VERSION AFTER " PERSONAL" REVIEW OF ITS PROVISIONS.
HE WARNED TRADE UNIONISTS TO RESTRUCTURE PHIL LABOR MOVEMENT
TO BRING END TO " WASTEFUL/ JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES OR FACE
GOP INTERVENTION TOWARD THIS END. END SUMMARY.

1. LABOR DAY (MAY 1) 1973 WAS CELEBRATED BY UNIONS
MAINLY AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE (MALACANANG) WHERE MARCOS
TOLD SEVERAL HUNDRED LABOR LEADERS (PLUS EMPLOYER AND GOP
REPRESENTATIVES) THAT " NEW SOCIETY" USHERED IN BY MARTIAL
LAW HAD BROUGHT NEW BENEFITS IN LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS,
DESPITE BAN ON STRIKES/ PICKETING. HE CITED SPEED AND EFF-
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ICIENCY WITH WHICH NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION HAD SETTLED OVER 2,000 LABOR- MANAGEMENT " CASES" IN SIX MONTHS OF ITS EXISTENCE. HOWEVER, MARCOS CALLED FOR RESTRUCTURING OF LABOR MOVEMENT WHOSE INTERNECINE DISPUTES HAD ACCOUNTED FOR 50 PERCENT OF ALL STRIKES AND CONSEQUENT DISRUPTION OF PRODUCTION PRIOR TO MARTIAL LAW. HE WARNED THAT UNLESS TRADE UNION RESTRUCTURING TO ELIMINATE JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES WERE INITIATED BY UNIONISTS THEMSELVES, GOVERNMENT WOULD INTERVENE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IN " NEW CLIMATE OF REFORMS", LABOR WOULD FIND NEW STIMULUS TO UNITE AND EMERGE AS " POSITIVE FORCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PROGRESS". HE MADE NO STATEMENT INDICATING POSSIBILITY OF EARLY LIFTING OF STRIKE/ PICKETING BAN.

2. MARCOS PRAISED CONTRIBUTION OF LECOR, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT REPS IN RECENT TRIPARTITE CONGRESS WHICH FORMULATED NEW COMPREHENSIVE LABOR CODE. HE PROMISED TO REVIEW DRAFT PERSONALLY AND TO PROMULGATE NEW CODE AS PRES. DECREE SHORTLY.

3. DRAFT CODE SUBMITTED TO MARCOS COVERS FIELD OF LABOR LEGISLATION, FROM WORKMEN' S COMPENSATION AND WAGE ADMINISTRATION TO INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND TRADE UNION REGULATION. LANGUAGE OF LATTER SECTION IN DRAFT CODE LIMITS " REGISTERED" UNION FEDERATIONS TO ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES IN A SINGLE INDUSTRY IN " ANY AREA OR REGION". NATIONAL UNIONS ARE RESTRICTED TO ORGANIZING IN A SINGLE INDUSTRY " ALL OVER THE COUNTRY". LABOR SECRETARY HAS AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE SUCH " FIELDS OF ACTIVITY". DRAFT ALSO PROVIDES FOR CHANGE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION: NEW COMMISSION WOULD BE TRI- PARTITE, WITH CHAIRMAN AND TWO MEMBERS FROM PUBLIC AND ONE EACH FROM LABOR AND MANAGEMENT, FUNCTIONING UNDER " EXECUTIVE SUPERVISION" OF LABOR SECRETARY.

4. COMMENT: NUMEROUS TRADE UNIONISTS PRIVATELY UPSET BY ONE- FEDERATION, ONE- INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN DRAFT CODE, SINCE THEIR LABOR FIEFDOMS BASED UPON AFFILIATES ACROSS BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL CATEGORIZATION. ALSO, LABOR AND SOME MANAGEMENT- LABOR LAWYERS HAVE DEVELOPED LOBBY IN OPPOSITION TO NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSION AND ITS EMPHASIS ON SETTLEMENT OF LABOR DISPUTES THROUGH NON- LEGALISTIC PROCESS (WHICH WOULD BE CONTINUED AND STRENGTHENED BY ADOPTION LABOR CODE PROPOSALS). POSSIBLE THAT UNHAPPINESS IN THESE QUARTERS REACHED MARCOS AND CAUSED HIM TO DELAY CODE' S DECREE FOR PRESENT. MARCOS' WARNING TO UNIONISTS TO RESTRUCTURE THEIR OWN ORGANIZATIONS OR FACE STATE INTERVENTION MAY BE INDICATION OF THIS AS IT

IMPLIES PROMISE TO GIVE THEM CHANCE TO REORGANIZE VOLUNTARILY.
HOWEVER, LABATT DOUBTS PHIL TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP AS WHOLE
CAPABLE OF SURMOUNTING OLD RIVALRIES AND MOVEMENT'S
TRADITION OF ORGANIZATIONAL ANARCHY SUFFICIENTLY TO ACHIEVE
THIS OBJECTIVE EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.
(SUMMARY OF DRAFT DECREE AND FURTHER COMMENTS FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.)
BYROADE

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